

IKAR: The Essentials of Judaism

Class Schedule and Syllabus 2018—2019

Classes are from **6:30 to 8:30 p.m.** on **Thursdays**, typically at the **Boulder JCC**, 6007 Oreg Ave.

Please Note: The class on October 18, 2018, will be held at
Congregation Har Hashem, 3950 Baseline Road, Boulder.

Learning Block 1 - Instructor: Morah Yehudis Fishman

10/11/18 Class 1 – Bereishit: In the Beginning (See pp. 9-15.)

Segment 1 - What is this class about?

Segment 2 - How is Jewish time marked?

10/18/18 Class 2 – Rosh HaShanah (See pp. 16-30.)

Special Location: Congregation Har HaShem

Segment 1 - What is Rosh HaShanah?

Segment 2 - What are some of the ways Rosh HaShanah is commemorated /celebrated?

10/25/18 Class 3 – Yom Kippur (See pp. 31-39.)

Segment 1 - What is Yom Kippur?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish values?

Learning Block 2 - Instructor: Rabbi Lynne Goldsmith

11/1/18 Class 4 – Sukkot and Simchat Torah (See pp. 40-58.)

Segment 1 - What are Sukkot and Simchat Torah?

Segment 2 - What are the major books of Judaism? How are they connected?

11/8/18 Class 5 – Shabbat (See pp. 59-71.)

Segment 1 - What is Shabbat?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Shabbat is celebrated?

11/15/18 Class 6 – Conversion (See pp. 72-77.)

Special guests to be announced.

Segment 1 - Who is a Jew?

Segment 2 - What is the conversion process like?

11/22/17 NO CLASS – Thanksgiving

Learning Block 3 - Instructor: Rabbi Ori Har DiGennaro

11/29/18 Class 7 Rituals of Birth through Adolescence (pp. 78-95.)

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding birth?

Segment 2 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding adolescence?

12/6/18 Class 8 – Chanukah (See Lesson 10 in the Reader, pp. 130-146.) *

Segment 1 - What does Chanukah commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Chanukah is commemorated and celebrated?

12/13/18 Class 9 – Marriage and Divorce (See Lesson 8 in the Reader, pp. 96-108.) *

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding marriage?

Segment 2 - How does Judaism address divorce?

12/20/18 NO CLASS – Winter Break

12/27/18 NO CLASS – Winter Break

1/3/19 NO CLASS – Winter Break

Learning Block 4 - Instructor: Rabbi Tirzah Firestone

1/10/19 Class 10 – Death and Afterlife (See Lesson 9 in the Reader, pp. 109-129.) *

Segment 1 - What are Jewish rituals surrounding death?

Segment 2 - What are the Jewish beliefs concerning afterlife?

1/17/19 Class 11 – Tu B'Shevat (See Lesson 14 in the Reader, pp. 202-219.) *

Segment 1 - What is Tikun Olam?

Segment 2 - What is Tu B'Shevat?

1/24/19 Class 12 – God (See Lesson 11 in the Reader, pp. 147-166) *

Segment 1 - Who is God?

Segment 2 - Why does God act as God does?

Learning Block 5 - Instructor: Rabbi Ruth Gelfarb

1/31/19 Class 13 – Prayer (See Lesson 12 in the Reader, pp. 167-182.) *

Segment 1 - What is the importance and value of prayer?

Segment 2 - What are some different models of Jewish prayers?

2/7/19 Class 14 – Denominations of Judaism (See Lesson 13, pp. 183-201.) *

Segment 1 - How did Judaism come to look as it does today?

Segment 2 - What unites the different denominations?

2/14/19 Class 15 – Purim (and Mysticism. See Lesson 15 in the Reader, pp. 220-242.) *

Segment 1 - What is Purim?

Segment 2 - What is Jewish mysticism?

Learning Block 6 - Instructor: Rabbi Fred Greene

2/21/19 Class 16 – Jewish History (See *Lesson 17* in the Reader, pp. 262-278.) *

Segment 1 - What is the role of history? Memory?

Segment 2 - How does Jewish history impact me?

2/28/19 Class 17 – Anti-Semitism (See *Lesson 18* in the Reader, pp. 279-312.) *

Segment 1 - What is the history of Anti-Semitic feelings and actions?

Segment 2 - How does the Holocaust impact us today?

3/7/19 Class 18 – Zionism and Israel (See *Lesson 19* in the Reader, pp. 313-340.) *

Segment 1 - How did Israel come to be?

Segment 2 - What is the current situation in Israel?

Learning Block 7 - Instructor: Rabbi Marc Soloway

3/14/19 Class 19 – Passover (See *Lesson 16* in the Reader, pp. 243-261.) *

Segment 1 - What does Passover commemorate?

Segment 2 - What are some ways Passover is commemorated and celebrated?

3/21/19 NO CLASS – Purim

3/28/19 NO CLASS – Spring Break

4/4/19 Class 20 – Shavuot (See pp. 341-366.)

Segment 1 - What does Shavuot commemorate?

Segment 2 - What is the purpose of the commandments?

4/11/19 Class 21 – Intro to Jewish Community (See pp. 367-376.)

Segment 1 - What are my options for community involvement?

Segment 2 - What questions do I still have?

Make-up Session and Snow-date - Instructor: tbd

4/18/19 Snow-date make-up class, if needed

* These lessons are out of sequence from the course materials to accommodate the Jewish calendar. Please follow indicated page numbers.